THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. A Statement showing Minimum Support Price (MSP) *vis-a-vis* Economic Cost of Wheat and Rice since 1997-98 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statement showing minimum support price (MSP) vis-a-vis Economic cost of Wheat and Rice since 1997-98

Rs./QTL.

Year	MSP of			Economic Cost	
	Paddy		Wheat	Wheat	Rice (Weighted)
	Common	Grade A			
1997-98	415	445	475*	786	939
1998-99	440	470	510**	798	975
1999-2000(RE)	490	520	550	820	1076
2000-2001(BE)	—	—	580	900	1180

Note: 1. MSP of paddy is for marketing years (Oct.-Sept. of a year).

Milling charges for rice-millers

3683. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central government fix milling charges payable to rice millers for milling of paddy;

(b) whether Punjab Government has requested the Central Government for enhancement of milling charges, keeping in view the over-all increase in expenditure incurred for milling of paddy;

*Includes bonus of Rs. 60/-per qtl. upto June '97.
**Includes bonus of Rs. 55/-per qtl. upto June '98.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Determination of the cost of Milling Charges was entrusted to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), and certain clarifications have been sought from the BICP regarding its methodology in arriving at its recommended rate.

Cleaning polluted rivers

3684. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether polluted rivers have been identified in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been worked out to clean those rivers; and

(d) if so, whether the same has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board identified 22 polluted stretches of major rivers covering 141 towns in 14 States. The river-wise details are given in the statement. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government approved during the period April, 1993 to October, 1996 the schemes of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II and the National River Conservation Plan at a cost of about Rs. 1276 crore and Rs. 737 crore respectively. The Action Plan involve (i) interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river and divert them for treatment, (ii) sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage, (iii) low cost sanitation